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NAVY MED NAVIGATOR

In World News:

Furious crowds hurled debris and insults at Algeria's president on Saturday when he visited a town devastated by an earthquake, blaming the government for a death toll that rose to more than 2,000 and shortages of food and water.

The 6.8-magnitude earthquake flattened villages east of Algiers on Wednesday night. The Interior Ministry said at least 2,047 people were killed and 8,626 injured in the quake, the official APS news agency reported Sunday.

In Navy News:

ABOARD USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, At Sea (NNS) – Hangar Bay Two on USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) became a blaze of colored flashing lights in the midst of evening's "darken ship," as its Sailors cruised the vast midnight blue Mediterranean Sea May 19.

The rock band Dishwalla added swooning vocals, thundering bass and hypnotic rhythms to the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier as its way of showing support for the troops.

The band's lead vocalist J.R. Richards, Guitarist Rodney Browning Cravens, Bassist Scot Alexander, Percussionist Pete Maloney and Keyboardist Jim Wood brought a little bit of home to Sailors at sea.

The band is on a military tour, "Meet and Greet the Troops." They have been to Rota, Spain; Naples, Italy; and Yokosuka, Japan, and on board USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63), with more to come.

In Sports:

The Nets won their 10th consecutive playoff game Saturday night, running full steam to a 102-82 victory to complete an Eastern Conference finals sweep of the Detroit Pistons.

Jason Kidd put the game away after shaking off a twisted ankle in the fourth quarter and finished with 26 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists. Kenyon Martin added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

The Nets, who had five days off between their sweep of Boston and the start of the Detroit series, will have 10 days to prepare for the start of the NBA Finals on June 4. They will play either San Antonio or Dallas, who resume their Western Conference final series Sunday with the Spurs leading 2-1.

'Ship Shape' and Ready



Chief Petty Officer Robert Bott (top) and Petty Officer 2nd Class Jean-Pierre Turnier worked together to clean the beds on the wards.

*Story and photo by JOSN Erica Mater
Comfort Public Affairs*

Over the past couple of weeks, Comfort crewmembers have been hard at work cleaning up after the war. Every space, from the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit to Casualty Receiving to the medical wards, has been getting a thorough scrub-down.

"It's like spring cleaning," said Petty Officer 3rd class Jamin Rogovoy. "It is a lot of tedious work."

However, according to Rogovoy the cleaning needs to be done.

"It has been a long time since this ship has seen a deep cleaning," said Rogovoy who is the section one leader

down on the wards and is in charge of supply for the wards.

After every operation Comfort participates in, crewmembers perform a thorough cleaning to keep Comfort at a high state of readiness.

On the wards, there are four sections to cover all the areas of cleaning. Crewmembers start their day of cleaning at 9:00 a.m. and work until 7:00 p.m. with breaks and meals in between.

Section two leader Petty Officer 3rd class Stephani Powell, is in charge of inspecting the wards once her crew is done with their specific job.

"We are doing everything. We take apart the beds, scrub the walls, and scrap off adhesive from all surfaces," said Powell.

For most people, cleaning is thought of as a necessary evil that has to get done. However, on Comfort it is more than just busy work. According to Petty Officer 3rd Class Janel Hrenko, there is a method to this madness.

"Comfort has to be ready to go on a moments notice," said Hrenko, who is the leader for section three, which is in charge of the heads in the wards.

Powell agrees with Hrenko.

"We need to disinfect and clean after patients leave just in case we get patients and don't have time to clean," Powell said.

The deep cleaning allows Comfort to maintain it's "ready-5" status, which means that, if activated, the ship can go from a stand-still to fully manned and operational in five days.

Although Powell inspects each space after it is completed, the Medical Treatment Facility Commanding Officer Capt. Charles Blankenship and Command Master Chief Jude Adams have the final say so. After

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“Captain” Jack of all trades

MSC Mariner does it all



Military Sealift Command Mariner Paul Stewart works on a motor on Comfort's weather decks. Stewart does maintenance work during his “daytime” job.

*Story and photos by JOSN Erica Mater
Comfort Public Affairs*

Most Saturday nights onboard Comfort are a time when crewmembers can gather and have a little fun. Whether it is singing songs for karaoke night, or playing spades while enjoying an ice cream Sunday, most crewmembers find the time spent on the mess decks a nice way to unwind and relax. All the events are put on by Comfort's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation committee, and are hosted by Military Sealift Command Mariner Paul Stewart.

Many of us have laughed at his antics on Saturday nights or have talked with him on the weather decks. Stewart is about 5'6" with a goatee, bandana around his head, and has lived his life making the most of every moment.

When Stewart came out to Comfort on Jan. 6 he found himself working as an able-bodied seaman fixing doors and doing maintenance work. However, it wasn't long until Stewart found himself doing another kind of job. During the shellback initiation on Comfort, Stewart played the role of Davy Jones. This was his debut on Comfort and has been going strong since then.

“I tend to find a way to get involved,” said Stewart.

Although that was his first involvement on Comfort, Stewart has been getting involved his entire life.

Stewart was born in Sonoma, Calif., and after high school moved to Lake Tahoe in California to work at a ski resort so he could become proficient in skiing.

After two winters and some college in between, Stewart left Lake Tahoe and moved to Hawaii so he could surf.

“In high school, I always said I would live on an island,” said Stewart. “I decided that before I get old and die I wanted to surf so I went to Hawaii.”

Kailua Beach, on the island of Oahu is where Stewart called home since it is renowned for its “awesome” waves and surfing.

Stewart's outgoing personality and ability to talk to people helped him to find jobs while in Hawaii to help support his surfing addiction.

“I would work at a place that I could surf three times a day,” Stewart said. “That is why I picked Hawaii. I could do what I do year round.”

However, surfing wasn't the only activity he participated in. He was always in the water, either surfing, skiing, fishing, or whatever else you could think of to do in the water.

When asked what else he has done, Stewart commented, “Oh, I have been a lifeguard since I was 16, and still keep my certification, and I have been riding motorcycles my whole life.”

Stewart's adventures did not stop there though. In 1984, Stewart completed the requirements and received his captain's license. Since then, he has driven every kind of commercial boat in Honolulu. He first started as captain of a glass-bottom boat giving tours, and has even participated in transporting ac-

tors during movies filmed in Hawaii.

“One day I hung out with Cuba Gooding, Jr., during the filming of Pearl Harbor,” said Stewart. “The funny thing is I didn't even know it was him until one of my friends told me.”

That is the type of person Stewart is. He says he is more interested in doing things and hanging out with people than their fame.

“I talk to absolutely everybody, and I mean everybody,” said Stewart.

With over 40 certifications under his belt, it is no wonder that when Stewart works somewhere he does more than just a single task.

“Anytime I do a job, I do everything there. I have done everything from maintenance to being a tour-guide,” Stewart said of one employment.

In fact, he has done so much that it would make for a nice autobiography if he ever slows down long enough to write one.

With his type of personality it only seemed fitting that his job now, when not on Com-

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Stewart turns in the tools for a microphone as he hosts one of the many Saturday night events on Comfort's mess decks.

Chaplain's Corner:

Liberty in Crete

LCDR Mark Koczak
Command Chaplain

Like many of you, I had never been to Greece until the beginning of last week. But I have spent most of my time as an Orthodox priest, eating Greek food at various churches and taking care of many Greek Americans as their priest. At the Orthodox chapel in Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, over 60% of the community was Greek. Wonderful people who would tell me about their trips home. As an Orthodox Christian I have always wanted to visit.

It was a personal delight for me to go on liberty to Hania. The food, the atmosphere, the shopping and the people were wonderful. But I did not know too much about this area. There has been a town in this part of Crete for almost five thousand years. The people have lived through many invasions; Romans, Arabs, Venetians, and Turks have all taken the town over. If you looked carefully in the city you could see parts of all of these cultures. Read about Cretan culture on the web or pick up a book when we get back home. It is very interesting and Hania had been the capital of Crete for a period of time.

Many of us shopped in Hania. That is an understatement, almost all of us shopped. I had the joy for the second time in my life to walk into a store and actually pick up and purchase things that I needed for church. I cannot do this easily in the US, but in Crete, yes!! And hopefully all of us went beyond the tourist items to pick up some very nice things for our friends and loved ones at home.

For me the greatest thrill was on our first evening, at 600pm the bell rang from the local downtown Orthodox church. I was shopping with my liberty partners and I ran down the alley to look for the church. I went in and experienced the same evening prayer service, Vespers, which I serve at home, but in Hania in Greek, of course. Liberty call, shipmates, is about experiencing a different culture than ours. This is one of the really neat things about being a sailor. Most of us were able to do that in Hania, Crete.

CLEANING, from page 1

each ward is cleaned, the CO and CMC will walk through and inspect to make sure it is up to Comfort standards.

Hrenko believes that even though the area of cleaning is a large area and it can be tiresome, the work she and the crew are doing will help in the long run.

"Everything should be setup so that anybody can step in and get the job done at a moment's notice," said Hrenko. "And that is what we are doing. We are leaving the ship in a condition to take on patients and any given moment."

After several weeks of long hours and hard work, crewmembers on the wards are looking to be finished by early next week and look forward to seeing the end results of their labor.

Comfort is currently in the Mediterranean Sea on its voyage back to the United States after being deployed to Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CAPTAIN, from page 2

fort, is as an on-air personality of a radio station in Hawaii. He hosts live events, produces radio shows for other stations and is working on getting a nationally syndicated radio show for him and his two co-hosts.

For the time being, he is working on Comfort to help pay for his 14-year-old daughter, Candace's education and working on getting a higher captain's certification. Stewart says his daughter is the most important thing to him.

"My job in life is 'Dad.' I love Candace and I have taken her all over with me, from concerts to events. I want her to have the ex-

periences I have had," said Stewart.

When asked how he has done so much, Stewart simply smiled and said, "It is more fun to be involved instead of just sitting on the sidelines whenever and wherever you are."

And Comfort has not stopped him from doing new things and being himself. Stewart plans on making the most of his time on Comfort. In true Stewart style, he wants everyone on Comfort to know that if anyone is ever in the Hawaii area to give him a call and he will show you to a good time on the islands.

MWR Events

Be sure to check out these following websites for information on our port visits and what they have to offer. You can also check out the bulletin board outside the post office or the Comfort intranet for more details.

[Http://www.rotamwr.com](http://www.rotamwr.com) - this site has everything you need to know about MWR in Rota, Spain. They offer many activities to do out in town or if you prefer have several facilities on base to accommodate your needs.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Comfort MWR.

FH-3: 'Ground Zero for Nation Building'

*By Rod Duren,
Public Affairs Officer,
NH Pensacola, Fla.*

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Lieutenant Dallas Braham, a Navy Nurse and reservist who was recalled to active duty in February from his day charge nurse duties at Tulane University Hospital in New Orleans, has spent the past 11 weeks as part of Navy Medicine's historical Fleet Hospital 3 (FH-3).

FH-3 became the first Navy medical command to construct and establish an Expeditionary Medical Facility (EMF) in a combat zone April 1 in southern Iraq.

The 116-bed EMF covers nine acres and is manned by more than 300 medical service support personnel from Navy medical facilities at Bethesda, Md.; Corpus Christi, Texas; Great Lakes, Ill.; Pensacola, Fla.; and Portsmouth, Va; plus Seabees from Key West, Fla.; and Kings Bay, Ga.

Lt. Braham hadn't given much thought to the "historical" aspects of being the first EMF in a combat zone or the "austere (living and working) conditions we were in and level of care we provided," he said recently

as the command prepared to complete its duties in southern Iraq as a combat field hospital.

"Until then, we simply had a task to perform and we have done it extraordinarily well," said Braham, the Naval Hospital Pensacola ICU nurse. "We have shown that several aspects of Navy Medicine can meld together to be the immediate support for the 'pointy end of the spear'."

"We are not warriors," Braham continued, "but through our care, we have provided tactical support and have been, as one of my close friends said, 'ground zero for nation building'."

FH-3, through the trust it has built among the citizenry, has saved many lives outside the hospital and "some (patients' lives and outlooks) within the hospital have even begun to be rebuilt," said Braham, who was commissioned a Navy Nurse in 1999 after serving years in the Naval Air Reserve in New Orleans.

"Our success here will change the course of Naval Medicine in the field," said Braham, the 40-year-old Navy nurse.

The commanding officer of FH-3 agreed wholeheartedly. "Bottom line,

this has been a shining example of the definition of teamwork," added Captain Peter F. O'Connor. "I've said it before to our families, this is the best fleet hospital in the Navy and I'm proud to be a part of it."

In describing one of the more moving experiences while being a part of FH-3, Braham, the father of three young children, said the most difficult aspect of the deployment has been caring for the wounded children.

"It was tough on me," said Braham. "I spent several hours one night caring for a young girl who had received a gunshot wound to the head, reportedly from celebratory gunfire near the city of Basra soon after the liberation of that area began."

"Through an interpreter, I spent much of that time conversing with her father as I hovered over his daughter. We spoke of our families and how protective we were of our daughters," said Braham, who missed the birth of his third child while deployed.

"Through him, I think I got my greatest affirmation of our purpose to care for their wounds and for our forces to liberate these good people from the tyrant that has ruled over them," Braham concluded.

Sailors of the Quarter honored on flight deck



Photo by HM2 James Royal

*Story by JOSN Erica Mater
Comfort Public Affairs*

Saturday, May 18, three Comfort Sailors were honored for the achievements during the first quarter of 2003. Hospitalman Matthew Moritz was named Bluejacket of the Quarter while Mess Specialist 2nd Class Joseph Scatina, and Machinist Mate 1st Class James Mento were named Junior Sailor of the Quarter and Senior Sailor of the Quarter, respectively. All three Sailors were awarded letters of commendation as well as plaques in a ceremony held on the flight deck while passing through the Suez Canal.

From left to right: Bluejacket of the Quarter Hospitalman Matthew Moritz, Junior Sailor of the Quarter Mess Specialist 2nd Class Joseph Scatina, and Senior Sailor of the Quarter Machinist Mate 1st Class James Mento.